



By Lisa Mosca, MPA

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CITY OF SANFORD: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Fabulous places to eat... wonderful events for the entire family...a myriad of extraordinary places to shop - and it's all only minutes away from your front door in the friendly City of Sanford.

Easily accessible from all points on the Central Florida map, Sanford was just voted as the Best Downtown by the *Orlando Weekly Best of 2013* edition. With our diverse shopping, restaurants, eccentricity, the arts, charm, historic architecture, accessibility, and of course, those breezy moonlit walks on the famous RiverWalk along beautiful Lake Monroe, it is no wonder why Sanford is also a destination for those who live outside our community.

With those amenities as a backdrop, the City of Sanford sponsors many events throughout the year. In November, we honor Veterans Day, a time for Americans to pause, reflect, and say thank you to all those who have served our country. Everyone is invited to attend this year's ceremony on Monday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, which also overlooks Lake Monroe.

As we enter the holiday season and begin the jovial celebrations of the upcoming holidays, Sanford should surely be a must-see destination on your things-to-do list. Kick off the joyous season in Sanford's Historic District. A holiday tradition, the Sanford Historic Trust is celebrating its 25th anniversary of the Holiday Tour of Homes, December 6 and 7. The event begins on Friday night at 6:00 p.m. with the perennial Candlelight Tour of Homes, an awe-inspiring, dazzle-your-senses event. The holiday atmosphere will lift your spirits, while you enjoy live entertainment, carolers, and refreshments that are all included in the \$25 ticket price. As in prior years, residents will open their homes to the public, with the tour taking place in the historic section of the city on Oak Avenue between 3rd and 11th Street. The eight Victorian-style homes are fabulous, both inside and out. The quaintness of the homes and courtyards are stunning and magnificently decorated for the holidays - a great date night that will surely inspire your holiday decorating senses. You'll feel as if you've taken a step back in time to the cozy days of the Norman Rockwell era.

Saturday is the family-friendly tour. For more information visit www.sanfordhistorictrust.org.

Don't miss Christmas in the Square on Friday, December 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., as the City of Sanford lights up Historic Downtown with all the pomp and festivities that go along with lighting the majestic Christmas tree in Magnolia Square. A free event with live entertainment, Christmas in the Square is the epitome of the season. This is one event where you must bring the kids. There will be face painters, balloon artists, and of course the arrival of old Saint Nick himself!



Sanford's Parade of Lights returns Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. on First Street in downtown Sanford. Illuminated floats light up Sanford at this annual event. Marching bands, civic groups, and businesses take part in this holiday tradition. I heard Santa's planning a return trip from the North Pole to reappear during the Parade of Lights too!

The friendly and welcoming City of Sanford has a plethora of things to see and do this holiday season and all year long. Grab the family and enjoy this gem of a city. And it's all here - right in your own backyard.



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